



## Seminari Theoloji Malaysia

Semester I, 2019

### New Testament Survey/Introduction I: Gospels

Class Meetings: Wednesday, 11.15am-1.00pm; 2.00-3.00pm

Instructor: Rev Dr Lim Kar Yong

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#### Course Description

This course is the first installment of the 2-part course on New Testament Survey/Introduction. It is intended to help you begin to weave yourself through the maze of NT studies. You will be introduced to the practice of the scholarly and critical study of the background of the Inter-testamental and Second Temple period, the New Testament, and the question of introductory problems of the Gospels (authorship, date, audience, structure, and purpose). The content and theological themes of each of the Gospels will be explored. A survey of the life and teachings of Jesus will also be given special attention in this course.

#### Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- 1) provide the historical background to the period of the New Testament.
- 2) give an overall outline, the broad account of the occasion, content, and major themes of the Gospels.
- 3) begin to explore the different areas, disciplines and aspects of NT studies and learn how to do basic research and writing in NT studies.
- 4) apply the relevance of the Gospels and the teaching of Jesus in contemporary Christian living as well as the life of the church.

#### Course Requirements

- 1) Read the Gospels in an idiomatic English translation of your choice.
- 2) Graded requirements:
  - a. Term Paper (60%): Write a research paper with proper footnotes and bibliography related to a defined topic, theme or area of critical NT studies related to the Gospels. The length of the paper is stipulated in the Academic Handbook. Various topics will be suggested during the class. Please feel free to run by your idea with me before proceeding with your paper. This paper is due on Wednesday, **APRIL 24, 2019, 4.30pm**. Any extension beyond the due date will automatically result in 1/3 grade penalty.
  - b. Class presentation (30%): Do a 15-minute class presentation on topics that will be circulated at the beginning of class. More details will be provided in the class.
  - c. Journal (10%): At the end of each class, there will be a 10-15-minute period to write down your reflections/thoughts/insights/what you have learned from the lecture in a journal. The purpose is for you to reflect on your learning process. You may choose to do this exercise in your computer, or in a journal to be provided for you in the class. At the end of the course, you are to indicate if you

have done your journaling at the end of each class, and if you have done so, you will automatically be awarded 10% of the total grade.

**Required Textbook: Choose one of the following:**

- 1) David Wenham & Steve Walton. *Exploring the New Testament, Vol 1: Introducing the Gospels and Acts*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2011.
- 2) David A. deSilva. *An Introduction to the New Testament: Contexts, Methods & Ministry Formation*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2018.
- 3) Robert Gundry. *A Survey of the New Testament*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.

**Course Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Jan 16	No class – Instructor away
Jan 23	Introduction to the Course Inter-testamental/Second Temple Period: Events that Shaped the NT World
Jan 30	Inter-testamental/Second Temple Period: Events that Shaped the NT World
Feb 6	Chinese New Year – no class
Feb 13	Introduction to the Gospels
Feb 20	Gospel of Matthew
Feb 27	Gospel of Mark
Mar 6	Reading week – no class
Mar 13	Gospel of Luke
Mar 20	Gospel of John
Mar 27	Instructor Away – DWM Clergy Retreat
Apr 3	Israk & Mikraj – Public Holiday – no class
Apr 10	Life & Teaching of Jesus/Class Presentation
Apr 17	Class presentation
Apr 24	Back up Class if needed.

## Select Bibliography

### *New Testament Survey/Introduction/Studies*

- Achtemeier Paul J., Joel B. Green and Marianne Meye Thompson. *Introducing the New Testaments: Its Literature and Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.
- Barnett, Paul. *Jesus & the Rise of Christianity: A History of New Testament Times*. Downer Grove: InterVarsityPress, 1999.
- Boring, M. Eugene. *An Introduction to the New Testament: History, Literature, Theology*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2012.
- Carroll, John. *Jesus and the Gospels: An Introduction*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2016.
- Carson, D. A. & Douglas J. Moo. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.
- deSilva, David A. *An Introduction to the New Testament: Contexts, Methods & Ministry Formation*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2018.
- Elwell, Walter and Robert Yarbrough. *Encountering the NT: A Historical and Theological Survey*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2013.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Readings from the First-Century World: Primary Sources for New Testament Study*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.
- Gundry, Robert. *A Survey of the New Testament*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.
- Johnson, Luke Timothy. *The Writings of the NT: An Interpretation*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2010.
- Köstenberger, Andreas J., L. Scott Kellum & Charles L. Quarles. *The Cradle, the Cross, and the Crown: An Introduction to the New Testament*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2009.
- Köstenberger, Andreas J., & Robert W. Yarbrough, eds. *Understanding the Times: New Testament Studies in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Essays in Honor of D. A. Carson on the Occasion of his 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2011.
- McKnight, Scot & Grant R. Osborne, eds. *The Face of New Testament Studies: A Survey of Recent Research*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004.
- Strauss, Mark L. *Four Portraits: One Jesus: An Introduction to Jesus and the Gospels*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007.

***Dictionaries***

Evans, Craig A. and Stanley E. Porter, eds. *Dictionary of New Testament Background*. Downers Grove: InterVarsityPress, 2000.

Green, Joel B., Jeannie K. Brown & Nicholas Perrin, eds. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Downers Grove: InterVarsityPress, 2013.

Martin, Ralph and Peter Davids, eds. *Dictionary of the Later New Testament and its Developments*. Downers Grove: InterVarsityPress, 1997.